

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIMA 00393 161733Z

62

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAB-01 MC-02 ACDA-19 TRSE-00 AID-20 IO-14

DRC-01 /155 W

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R 161657Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8464

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

USCINCSO

UNCLAS LIMA 0393

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PE, PN, US

SUBJECT: GENERAL TORRIJOS REMARKS ON CANAL NEGOTIATIONS AND
FOREIGN MINISTERS' CONFERENCE IN MEXICO

1. SUMMARY: DURING TWO-HOUR PERUVIAN REFUELING STOP
ENROUTE TO BUENOS AIRES GENERAL TORRIJOS COMMENTED ON
PANAMA CANAL NEGOTIATIONS AND SUGGESTED THAT MEXICO
FONMINS CONFERENCE MAY PRODUCE SURPRISES. END SUMMARY.

2. GENERAL TORRIJOS HELD BRIEF PRESS CONFERENCE DURING
SCHEDULE TECHNICAL STOP AT PISCO, PERU ON JANUARY 15.
TORRIJOS SAID THAT US HAS PROPOSED EIGHT POINTS THAT
OUTLINE A STRUCTURE WHICH IS NO LONGER COLONIALIST. WE
HAVE ENTERED AT LAST A NEW PHASE OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE
US IN WHICH THERE ARE NO IMPOSITIONS OR PRECONDITIONS,
HE CONTINUED. THE GOVERNMENT OF PANAMA WILL CONSULT
WITH DIVERSE PANAMANIAN OPINION GROUPS, ESPECIALLY THE
STUDENTS, AND QUITE IF THE PEOPLE APPROVE THE TREATY, THE
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PAGE 02 LIMA 00393 161733Z

GOVERNMENT WILL RATIFY IT UNQUOTE. LEFTIST DAILY EXPRESO

INTERPRETED ABOVE AS PLEDGE FOR A PLEBESCITE. PANAMANIAN FONMIN TACK REITERATED THAT US TRIED TO IMPOSE NEGOTIATIONS BEFORE, BUT NOW WE ARE GOING TO NEGOTIATE WITH MUTUAL RESPECT. CONSERVATIVE DAILY LA PRENSA ONLY MORNING NEWSPAPER TO CARRY STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED TO TORROJOS THAT IF NEGOTIATIONS DO NOT ACHIEVE RECUPERATION OF THE CANAL, THEN QUOTE WE WILL KNOW WHAT ATTITUDE TO ASSUME IN THE FUTURE UNQUOTE.

3. TORRIJOS PRAISED PRESIDENT VELASCO FOR HIS RECENT INITIATIVE CONCERNING A LATIN AMERICAN ARMS FREEZE (SEE LIMA 362).

4. SEVERAL PAPERS RELATED THAT TORRIJOS INDICATED SURPRISES MAY EMERGE FROM THE FONMINS MEETING IN MEXICO BECAUSE IT IS FIRST TIME US WILL BE MEETING WITH LATIN AMERICA AS A GROUP (SIC) AND BECAUSE, ACCORDING TO ONE ACCOUNT, CANAL ISSUE IS INCLUDED IN THE AGENDA.
BELCHER

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